



CITY OF DAHLONEGA

City Council Work Session Minutes

March 17, 2025, 4:00 PM

Gary McCullough Council Chambers, Dahlonega City Hall

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 706-864-6133.

Vision - Dahlonega will be the most welcoming, thriving, and inspiring community in North Georgia

Mission Statement - Dahlonega, a City of Excellence, will provide quality services through ethical leadership and fiscal stability, in full partnership with the people who choose to live, work, and visit. Through this commitment, we respect and uphold our rural Appalachian setting to honor our thriving community of historical significance, academic excellence, and military renown.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Taylor called the Work Session to order at 4:47 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

Mayor Taylor read aloud a remembrance of Johnnie Loy Jones, former Dahlonega Mayor and City Councilmember, and called for a Moment of Silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was a motion by Councilman Reagin and a second by Councilman Brown to approve the Agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Cemetery Committee - February 2025

Mark Buchanan, City Engineer

Christopher Worick, Cemetery Committee member, addressed the Council. Mr. Worick announced that Committee member Patricia Turner passed on February 28, and that she will be missed.

No Council action was taken.

2. Downtown Development Authority & Main Street Program 2025 Work Plan

Awtrey Moore, DDA Board Chair / Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Director
Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Authority Director, addressed the Council.

No Council action was taken.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AVAILABLE AT: <https://dahlonega.gov/category/departments-reports/>

Allison Martin, City Manager, addressed the Council regarding Items 3. through 7. under *Department Reports*; the Council held a discussion to include that the depreciation cycle for assets is included each year in the Annual Audit.

3. Community Development - February 2025

Allison Martin, City Manager

4. Finance and Administration - February 2025
Kimberly Stafford, Finance Manager
5. Police - February 2025
George Albert, Chief of Police
6. Public Works - February 2025
Mark Buchanan, City Engineer
7. Water & Wastewater Treatment - February 2025
John Jarrard, Water/Wastewater Treatment Director

No Council action was taken.

APPOINTMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS

8. Proposed Proclamation declaring 2025 as the 100th Anniversary Year of Camp Glisson
Allison Martin, City Manager
Allison Martin, City Manager, addressed the Council and advised that this Proclamation will be coming before the Council during the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2025.

No Council action was taken.

PRESENTATIONS

9. Presentation of Draft Dahlenega Revitalization Plan
KB Advisory Group
Allison Martin, City Manager, addressed and provided a presentation to the Council; the Council held a discussion regarding the City's unique market area for service-based individuals and attainable housing.

No Council action was taken.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

10. Deannexation Application
Doug Parks, City Attorney
Doug Parks, City Attorney, addressed the Council and announced that this Item will be coming before the Council in April for a vote.

No Council action was taken.

11. Change to Open Container Footprint for the DDA/Main Street's 2025 *First Friday Concert Series*
Doug Parks, City Attorney / Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Director
Doug Parks, City Attorney, and Ariel Alexander, Downtown Development Authority Director, addressed the Council.

Ms. Alexander confirmed that all events will meet all catering requirements.

No Council action was taken.

AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS

12. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Lumpkin County regarding the 2025 Municipal Election for the City of Dahlonega
Rhonda Hansard, City Clerk
Rhonda Hansard, City Clerk, addressed the Council.

No Council action was taken.

OTHER ITEMS

13. 147 N Park Street - Future Development - DDA
Awtrey Moore, DDA Board Chair
Awtrey Moore, Downtown Development Authority Board Chairman, addressed the Council; the Council held a discussion regarding whether it was too premature to relinquish property to the Downtown Development Authority when there is no definitive plan.

Doug Parks, City Attorney, addressed the Council and recommended that the City retain ownership of the property.

No Council action was taken.

COMMENTS - PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE MINUTES PER SPEAKER

Clerk Comments

Rhonda Hansard, City Clerk, announced that the Council's Retreat was a success, and thanked the Council for providing the opportunity for staff to attend.

City Manager Comments

Allison Martin, City Manager, thanked Council and staff for a great Retreat; reminded Council that comments regarding the Revitalization Plan are due by March 21; thanked Chief Albert and the Police Department for assisting with the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Championship at UNG; and, advised that while US Ghost Adventures advertises to be Dahlonega's #1 rated Ghost Tour that the company does not hold a business license with the City and, therefore, is not authorized to conduct tours.

City Attorney Comments

Doug Parks, City Attorney, had no comments.

City Council Comments

Councilman Bagley wished the Lady Nighthawks good luck for the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Championship Game.

Councilman Brown wished the Lady Nighthawks good luck for the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Championship Game, and thanked staff for hosting a great Retreat.

Councilman Reagin wished the Lady Nighthawks good luck for the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Championship Game.

Councilman Gaddis thanked the Council and staff for a successful Retreat and recalled a memory of Johnnie Loy Jones (former Dahlonega Mayor and Councilman).

Councilman Shirley announced that he thought the Retreat was the best one held within the last four years, and announced that Mr. Gribben should have a completed drawing and staff will need to have checked right of way(s) and setbacks when this Item returns to the BZA for consideration (BZA-24-8).

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion by Councilman Shirley and a second by Councilman Bagley to adjourn the Work Session.

Motion carried unanimously, and the Work Session was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Guideline Principles - The City of Dahlonaga will be an open, honest, and responsive city that balances preservation and growth and delivers quality services fairly and equitably by being good stewards of its resources. To ensure the vibrancy of our community, Dahlonaga commits to Transparency and Honesty, Dedication and Responsibility, Preservation and Sustainability, Safety and Welfare ...for ALL!
